



Prairie Hawk Preschool Registration Information

A wonderful opportunity is continuing in the 2010-2011 school year for The College Community School District, which is the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children. The state is again funding the four-year-old preschool program in our district. College Community's program is called **Prairie Hawks Preschool** and will continue when school starts in the fall of 2010. Below is important information about the program:

- The primary goal is to provide a successful learning experience for each child enrolled thus laying a solid foundation for continued school success and life-long learning.
- A **certified teacher trained in early childhood education**, along with one or more paraprofessionals, will guide the learning in each class of up to 20 students.
- The program will strive for excellence and is required to meet rigorous **Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS)** each year. Each classroom will follow DHS licensing standards.
- The grant will **provide 12 hours per week of tuition-free preschool for 240 children who are four years old on or before September 15, 2010.**
- The program will meet **four days a week** – either 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM or 12:45 to 3:45 PM on Monday through Thursday. Friday will be used by the teachers for scheduled home visits, classroom preparation and professional learning required to meet IQPPS requirements.
- Parents/guardians will be able to select additional services as needed to meet the needs of the family:
 - The **basic half day program** is three hours each day on Monday through Thursday. That program is tuition free. Classes will be offered in the mornings from 9 AM -12 Noon and in the afternoon from 12:45 PM - 3:45 PM.
 - A set number of additional slots are available for a **full day program** – six hours per day on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. These classes will be fully integrated with Early Childhood Special Education students. Three hours each day are tuition free. **The additional three hours each day are tuition-based - \$55 per week.** A limited number of slots are available free to disadvantaged students who meet qualification guidelines.

- To accommodate family needs, **a variety of child care services will be available to “wrap around” the preschool class times.** Child care is not funded by the grant and will be fee-based. It will be offered both before and after the program and all day on Friday. (See the Wrap Around Child Care sheet for details). Wrap around child care preferences will be collected during registration and confirmed when notification of acceptance and assignment is made in the spring. A \$55 non-refundable deposit will be required at that time.
- Registration will be held on the dates and times listed below at the Prairie Crest Cafeteria:
 - Wednesday, February 24 – 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
 - Thursday, February 25 – 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
 - Additional registration times can be made by calling the ECC office at 848-5296
- A total of 240 slots are available – given our size that is the maximum the district was allowed to include in the preschool. Our hope is to serve all four-year-old children who desire pre-school services. However, as a requirement of the preschool funding, children whose situation puts them at the greatest risk of not being successful in school will be served as a priority. To facilitate planning, all interested parents are encouraged to register their children as soon as possible but this is **not a first come, first served registration process!**
 - **Parent/guardian must attend registration in person.** Please refrain from bringing children.
- A completed **physical, dental check up** and proof of **immunization** is required for admission and must be returned to the District on or before August 9, 2010. Immunization waiver forms will be available for those who have religious or medical objections to immunizations.
- Pre-school sections will be offered in each elementary building. An effort will be made to serve four-year-old students in the building where older siblings attend. However, the need to serve as many children as possible and to balance class rosters evenly may prevent that from happening in all cases.
- Pre-school classes will **start on Monday, August 30th**. Except for Friday’s, the program will follow the regular K-12 school calendar.
- As required by the enabling legislation, students will be served in the Prairie Hawk Preschool **without regard to district of residence.** However, it is important to note that **attendance in the preschool program does not create a right to use open enrollment to continue in the district in Kindergarten.**
- **Transportation is not provided by the grant.** Parents are encouraged to work together to share transportation so it does not become an impediment to participation.
- The district has partnered with **Kirkwood Kids and All God’s Children** in this grant effort. The programs at those sites will meet the same high standards described above. Likewise, programming at each site will be non-sectarian during the 12-hours (Kirkwood Kids) and 10-hours (All God’s Children) per week of free instruction. The goal is to have each site filled to serve as many children as possible with the free portion of the program. If the parent/guardian

prefers that the child attend the preschool through one of the partners, please contact them directly at:

- Kirkwood Kids – 319-398-1256 (Johnna Haggerty) or check out the website at www.kirkwood.edu/childcare.
- All God's Children – 319-848-2393 (Maureen Peters)

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

For more information about this preschool opportunity, contact Sandy MacKain at 848-5295 or email her at smackain@prairiepride.org, Jenny Pettigrew or Sarah Schnell at 848-5296 or email Jenny at jpettigrew@prairiepride.org, or Sarah at sschnell@prairiepride.org.